

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member comprising:
first and second outer plates;
a core of plastics or polymer material bonded to said outer plates with sufficient strength to transfer shear forces therebetween; and
at least one interlayer within the core, said interlayer being generally parallel to the outer plates and having a higher tensile strength than the core material.
2. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member according to claim 1 wherein said interlayer comprises a metal, e. g. steel, stainless steel or aluminium, layer.
3. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member according to claim 2 wherein said interlayer has a thickness in the range of from 50% to 150% of the thickness of one of said outer plates.
4. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member according to claim 1 wherein said interlayer-comprises metal (e. g. steel, stainless steel or aluminium) mesh.
5. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member according to claim 4 wherein said metal mesh is formed of expanded metal.
6. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member according to claim 1 wherein said interlayer comprises a high tensile strength fabric.

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May 11, 2006

7. (Original) A structural sandwich plate member according to claim 1 wherein said interlayer comprises a hard ceramic plate.
8. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said interlayer is corrugated, or dimpled or wave-formed.
9. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 comprising a plurality of interlayers.
10. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said interlayer is perforated.
11. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said interlayer does not extend over the whole area of said plate member.
12. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said outer plates are made of metal.
13. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said outer plates have a thickness greater than or equal to 3mm.
14. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said core is made of a compact material.
15. (Currently Amended) A structural sandwich plate member according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said core has a thickness greater than or equal to 15mm.

16. (Original) A method of manufacturing a structural sandwich plate member comprising the steps of:

providing first and second outer plates in a spaced-apart relationship with at least one interlayer located therebetween and spaced from each of said outer metal plates;

injecting uncured plastics or polymer material to fill the space defined between said outerplates and either side of said interlayer ; and

allowing said plastics or polymer material to cure to bond said outer plates together with sufficient strength to transfer shear forces therebetween ;

wherein said interlayer has a higher tensile strength than the cured plastics or polymer material.

17.(Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said step of injecting is carried out from both sides of the plate, either simultaneously or in two stages.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 16 or 17~~claim 16 comprising the additional step of coating or impregnating the interlayer with plastics or polymer material prior to insertion into the cavity between the outer metal plates.

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